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A SOCIETY OF STATES: SOVEREIGNTY, INDEPENDENCE AND EQUALITY IN A LEAGUE OF NATIONS, by W. T. S. Stallybrass, Fellow and Vice-Principal of Brasenose College, Oxford, of the Inner Temple, Barrister at Law. New York, E. P. Dutton & Co., 1919; pp. xviii, 243.

It is refreshing, in the confusion which has been created by obscurantist clamor about national sovereignty and the League of Nations, to turn to such a straightforward and sensible little book as *A SOCIETY OF STATES* by Mr. Stallybrass. The author concedes at the outset that a league of nations involves some delegation of the attributes of sovereign power and independence. He goes on to show, however, that the notion of absolute sovereignty and independence has long since ceased to accord with the facts of international life and that a league of free nations is by no means so abrupt a departure from recent practice as many have supposed. He suggests three alternatives either of which might be regarded as the goal of international development: (1) world dominion, or universal monarchy; (2) the apotheosis of sovereignty, or universal anarchy; (3) the organization of the society of nations, or universal law. Of these, the first is hardly relevant to present conditions and the second, to say the least, is very much discredited. The third is probably the rationale of much that has transpired in the past and it is certainly the hope of the future. From this point of view the question of a league of nations presents nothing that is revolutionary. It is simply a matter of the present practicability of certain proposed steps in the right direction.

Mr. Stallybrass states briefly the theory of the sovereign state in its logical perfection, indicates some of the more obvious restrictions upon sovereignty which have grown up in the custom and practice of nations, and concludes with a discussion of further limitations which may be thought to be involved in the proposed League. There is nothing in the book for those who have already had an opportunity to study the subject. It makes no pretensions either to learning or to originality. For those who have not studied the subject, however, the book offers an excellent introduction to a fund of information which needs to be more widely disseminated.

EDWIN D. DICKINSON.

PRINCIPLES OF THE LAW OF CONTRACT with a chapter on the Law of Agency, by Sir William R. Anson, Bart., D. C. L., of the Inner Temple, Barrister-at-law, Warden of All Souls College, Oxford. Third American Copyright Edition, edited, with American notes by Arthur L. Corbin, Hotchkiss Professor of Law, Yale University School of Law. New York, Oxford University Press, 1919. Pp. lvii, 508.

Contrary to what might have been anticipated in the case of a work that has gone through so many editions, the latest revision of Anson on Contract exhibits substantial improvements. Professor Corbin shows himself to be a real recensionist and not a mere compiler of citations. The present book is based specifically upon the twelfth English edition, we are told, and includes most of the additions made by Dean Hufcutt in the Second American Copy-